

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 155689

EXDIS, FROM UNA

FOL RPT LIBREVILLE 1666 ACTION SECSTATE 17 JUN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T LIBREVILLE 1666

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, GB, US

SUBJ: BONGO REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: LIBREVILLE 1660, STATE 154495

1. APPRECIATE PROMPT REPLY, I WILL, HOWEVER, NEED TO BE ABLE TO TELL BONGO MORE ABOUT WHY THERE IS "NO HOPE" THAN REFTEL CONVEYS SHOULD HE RAISE HIS REQUEST DIRECTLY WITH ME. (IN ANY CASE WILL NEED TO BE PREPARED TO GO TO HIM, SINCE BONGO MAY EXPECT THAT INASMUCH AS HE HAD MADE HIS REQUEST TO ME THROUGH MAMBOUKA, ALL HE NEED DO NOW IS SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR REPLY). PROPOSED LETTER WILL BE HELPFUL AND I HOPE CAN BE PROVIDED, BUT IT OF COURSE IS NOT SAME THING AS FACE-TO-FACE CONSULTATION.

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2. IF BONGO WILL GIVE US ENOUGH TIME, I CONTINUE PREFER THAT AMB MAMBOUKA SHARE IN CONVEYING NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO BONGO. SHORT DELAY IN ANY CASE WILL GIVE BONGO AT LEAST IMPRESSION THAT MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. INCIDENTALLY, DEPT, AND PERHAPS WHITE HOUSE, SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR INQUIRY ON BONGO'S BEHALF FROM TEMPLESMAN IF BONGO FOLLOWS PAST HISTORY.

3. GIVEN NATURE OF DEPARTMENTS REPLY, I WOULD LIKE NOW TO RAISE
POSSIBILITY OF SHORT VISIT HERE BY AMBASSADOR YOUNG PRIOR TO
HIS TRIP TO MIDDLE EAST. DEPT AND YOUNG HIMSELF HAVE INDEPENDENTLY
RAISED DESIREBILITY OF CONSULTING WITH SENIOR AFRICANS IN STATE
153154, PROCESS WITH WHICH I HEARTILY CONCUR. AS DEPARTMENT
KNOWS, THERE ARE VARIETY OF REASONS WHY I BELIEVE YOUNG VISIT
HERE WOULD BE HELPFUL (LIBREVILLE 1229), AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
BONGO'S REQUEST REINFORCES THOSE ARGUMENTS. MOREOVER, SHORT VISIT
COULD BE MANAGED FAIRLY EASILY IN TERMS OF AFRICAN SENSIBILITIES
PRIOR TO KHARTOUM SUMMIT, AS PART OF NORMAL CONSULTATION
PROCESS DURING COURSE OF LONGER TRIP. IT WOULD ALSO SERVE TO
GO LONG WAY TO SOOTHING BONGO WHEN WE HAVE TO TELL HIM NO IN ANSWER
TO HIS REQUEST.TIENKEN

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

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